

**Hamilton County Community Corrections
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2011**

The following members were present: Lee Buckingham, George Buskirk, Bill Cech, Jeff Davis, Larry Dawson, Roger Drayer, Judge Felix, Beth Gehlhausen, Stephenie Gookins, Eric Juarez, Stephanie Lyons, Judge Pfleging, Dan Stevens, and Judge Sturtevant. A quorum was present. Ralph Watson and Stephanie Ruggles were also in attendance.

Incoming Board President Beth Gehlhausen called the meeting to order.

Beth called for the approval of the December meeting minutes. Dan Stevens made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Stephenie Gookins seconded, motion unanimously carried.

Ralph Watson provided an overview of the November and December Fiscal Reports. Dan Stevens made a motion to approve the fiscal reports as presented. Lee Buckingham seconded, motion unanimously carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Director's Report

A written report was submitted and reviewed by the Executive Director.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss at this meeting.

New Business

Ralph Watson announced that new Carmel Chief of Police Tim Green would take the seat of former Chief, Mike Fogarty, on the Board.

Ralph presented an overview of the recently published draft findings of the Justice Reinvestment Project and detailed a number of ways Community Corrections may be impacted should the Project's recommendations be adopted by the State of Indiana. One area of concern involved the recommendation that Grant funds and user fees only be used for felony offenders. This would present considerable bookkeeping challenges, among other issues. In addition, several of the recommendations would seem to put various corrections departments (Sheriff, Community Corrections, and Probation) in competition for funds. The Indiana Association of Community Corrections ACT Counties (IACCAC) Legislative Committee proposed that funding earned through certain incentives only be used for new or additional programming, that Advisory Boards should have some input into how the funds are divided among the various County departments, and that community corrections' violations be removed from statistical consideration in addition to the probation violations already exempted. Ralph reported that he would be meeting with local legislators in the next few weeks to discuss the legislation.

Dan Stevens also asked that Ralph keep local officials apprised of the impact of the legislation on the programs in Hamilton County as it progresses thru the process.

Ralph requested Board members to consider joining either the Personnel Committee or newly-formed Finance Committee. Dan Stevens, Bill Cech, and Eric Juarez volunteered for the Personnel Committee. Roger Drayer, Stephenie Gookins, and Larry Dawson volunteered for the Finance Committee. Beth Gehlhausen requested that the remainder of the Board members consider the request and follow up with her should they be interested and available.

Ralph discussed the Department's concerns with early residential program participant arrivals. Due to the Department of Correction's (DOC) procedure of transporting offenders just twice per week, we have been receiving some participants up to five days before their DOC sentence has been completed. Our procedure has been to not begin the admission process into our program until the offender completes the first portion of their sentence. This results in our agency being confronted with several challenges. The offenders are not in our computer system, covered by our rules, and are not being charged fees, yet they are residing in our residential units. This has proven to be especially troublesome should a medical or legal issue arise in the time between their arrival and admission. Ralph has presented these challenges to the DOC and asked for guidance. Ralph also reported that we occasionally receive offenders early due to the Sheriff's Department's decision to transport an individual early from the DOC. The Advisory Board agreed that it would be appropriate for Ralph to request that these participants remain at the Hamilton County Jail until their Community Corrections' admission date. Ralph will discuss this issue with Captain Sloderbeck.

Beth Gehlhausen adjourned the meeting. The next Advisory Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 3rd at noon.**